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NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

LARGE REFRACTOR FOR THE POTSDAM OBSERVATORY.

The dimensions of the new refracting telescope for the Potsdam Observatory are understood to be as follows:

Aperture of the photographic objective, 80 cm = 31.5 inches.

Aperture of the guiding telescope objective, 50 cm = 19.7 inches.

Length of the tube, 12 — 13 metres = 39 — 43 feet.

Diameter of the Dome, about 69 feet.

The Dome is to have a fixed floor.

E. S. H.

BRIGHT METEOR SEEN AT OAKLAND, AUGUST 18, 1896.

[Extract from a letter of Mr. ALLEN H. BABCOCK.]

"Last evening, August 18th, at 7:55 P.M., I saw a very bright meteor break or burn up directly below *Cassiopeia*. The time is within a half-minute I think. I saw it first just above the "chair"

— it passed through the constellation about so — \* \* \*

and at about the head of the arrow it seemed to break up; but the light was so bright that it gave the impression of a sudden enlargement, rather than a breaking up. It disappeared almost immediately after the flare-up, and left a trail which disappeared so quickly that I am not sure whether it was a trail, or the result of the intense light in my own eyes. I did not hear any report."

THE PERSEIDS IN AUGUST, 1896.

Although the forerunners of this shower were not very numerous, it was thought advisable to try a photograph of the radiant on the night of August 10th. Therefore a plate was exposed with the CROCKER photographic telescope, using *Eta*